

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the Sequence Listing submitted as text concurrently with this paper through EFS-Web.

Please replace the paragraphs at page 11, lines 6 – 13 with the following amended paragraphs:

Fig. 1 shows epitope recognition factors corresponding to the program ProtScale of the canine proBNP amino acid sequence (Fig. 1A) and amino acid sequences of the inventive canine proBNP epitope (Fig. 1B) (SEQ ID NOS:1-5).

Fig. 2 shows epitope recognition factors of the feline proBNP amino acid sequence, calculated with ProtScale (Fig. 2A) and amino acid sequences of the inventive feline proBNP epitopes (Fig. 2B) (SEQ ID NOS:6-9).